

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11-18, 22-24 and 28-36 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 18, 22, 24, 32-34 and 36 have been amended. Claims 31 and 35 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-7, 11-18, 22-24, 28-30, 32-34 and 36 remain pending.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, 18, 22, 24 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)102(e) as being unpatentable over Umberger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,667), hereinafter Umberger. Claims 2, 12 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umberger and Narimatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,236), hereinafter Narimatsu in further view of Singhal (U.S. Patent 6,898,667), hereinafter Singhal. Claims 4, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umberger and Narimatsu in further view of Gross et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0143569), hereinafter Gross. Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umberger and Narimatsu in further view of Cabrera et al. (U.S. Patent 5,953,729), hereinafter Cabrera. Claims 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umberger and Narimatsu in further view of Surugucchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,765), hereinafter Surugucchi.

Claims 35 and 36 were objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-7, 11-18, 22-24 and 28-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and traverses the rejection of these claims.

However, in the interest of a timely prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 35, including all the limitations of intervening claim 31, and has cancelled claims 31 and 35 for this reason.

Independent system claim 11 and medium claim 22 have also been amended to correspond to amended claim 1. Additional minor amendments to the form of the system and medium claims have also been submitted. The Examiner is kindly requested to enter the claim amendments submitted in this paper.

Accordingly, claims 1-7, 11-18, 22-24, 28-30, 32-34 and 36 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5760-12900/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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